We Claim:

1. A rope comprising weak fibers for use with fishing gear, wherein the rope has a diameter between 5/16 inch and 1.0 inch and breaks between 600 and 2200 pounds of pulling tension.

2. The rope according to claim 1, wherein the rope comprises fibers comprising 30-90 wt% of a thermoplastic polymer and a 20-70 wt% filler distributed uniformly in said polymer, said filler having an average particle size under 100 microns.

3. The rope according to claim 1, wherein the rope breaks between 600 and 1250 pounds of pulling tension.

4. The rope according to claim 2, wherein the fibers are prepared with sufficient filler to decrease the tensile strength of the thermoplastic polymer by at least about 25% compared with a thermoplastic polymer without said filler.

5. The rope according to claim 2, wherein said filler is at least one selected from the group consisting of starch, sand, barium sulfate, barites, iron oxide and sodium chloride.

6. The rope according to claim 2, wherein said thermoplastic polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyacrylic acid, polyester, polyolefin, and copolymers thereof.

7. The rope according to claim 6, wherein said thermoplastic polymer is polyethylene; a mixture of polyethylene with polypropylene; or a copolymer of polyethylene and acrylic acid.

8. The rope according to claim 1, wherein said weak fibers are formed of a

blend of at least two thermoplastic polymers having limited compatibility.

9. The rope according to claim 8, wherein the at least two thermoplastic polymers have melt flow index values which differ by a value of at least 5 g/10 min.

10. The rope according to claim 9, wherein the blend consists of 90-60 wt % polypropylene and 10-40 wt% polyethylene wherein the wt% is based on the total weight of the weak fiber.

11. The rope according to claim 9, wherein the at least two thermoplastic polymers have melt flow index values which differ by 20-50 g/10 min.

12. The rope according to claim 8, wherein the at least two thermoplastic polymers are polyethylene having a molecular weight distribution >4 in a concentration of 85-95wt% and amorphous polypropylene in a concentration of 5-15 wt%, wherein the wt% values are based on the total weight of the weak fibers.

13. A method of reducing deaths in whales and other cetaceans during netfishing or trapfishing comprising netfishing with a net which incorporates the rope of claim 1 as a head rope in the net or trapfishing with a multisectional rope which is attached to a trap at one end and is attached at the opposite end to a buoy wherein a section of the multisectional rope attached to the buoy is the rope of claim 1.

14. The method of reducing deaths in whales and other cetaceans during trapfishing according to claim 13, wherein the section of the rope of claim 1 consists of up to 50 feet of the length of the multisectional rope.

15. The method of reducing deaths in whales and other cetaceans during

trapfishing according to claim 14, wherein the traps are used to catch lobster, crab or eel.

16. A fishnet comprising headrope and netting rope, wherein the headrope is the rope of claim 1 and the netting rope breaks at a higher pulling tension than the headrope.

17. A multisectional rope for trapfishing wherein the multisectional rope has a weak section and a strong section, wherein the weak section consists of the rope of claim 1 and the strong section consists of a rope which breaks at a higher pulling tension than the weak section of rope.